



Round Hill Wood

Management Plan 2017-2022

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Round Hill Wood
Location:	Kendal
Grid reference:	SD531928, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 97
Area:	0.38 hectares (0.94 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

This small wood sits on a knoll surrounded by housing and is very popular with local people. The local community looks after this wood and work is undertaken regularly to create a valuable and valued amenity.

2.2 Extended Description

Round Hill Wood, acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1981, is small 0.38ha urban woodland situated on a round prominent knoll in a housing estate on the eastern edge of Kendal. Houses and gardens surround the woodland apart from the north west boundary running along Sedbergh Drive and a short boundary with pasture-land to the north east. The boundaries vary considerably including wire fences, hedges, a leylandii hedge and the eastern boundary is drystone wall. Of particular note is the high, stepped retaining wall (retaining the wood) along Sedbergh Drive and the safety fence preventing access to the wall from the woodland side. Only pedestrian access is available into the site and this is via four concrete steps leading from Sedbergh Drive and from here informal paths rise steeply to the summit of the knoll.

Originally the wood consisted of a group of mature oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), elm (*Ulmus glabra*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) thought to be planted about 1880. For safety reasons some of these were felled, the remaining mature trees (approximately ten) consist of oak and sycamore all of which have been pollarded approximately two thirds their original height. During the early 1980s the southern and eastern peripheries of the woodland were planted with oak, beech and ash, none of the ash has survived though the beech and oak are now well established. In 1992/3 the open ground, resulting from the safety felling, was planted with 500 trees by volunteers from the local community with the overall aim of re-creating a small, sustainable wood using a mixture of trees chosen for their wildlife and amenity value. The main species planted were oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), bird cherry (*Prunus padus*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*). Favourable conditions exist for natural regeneration and where light allows a number of tree species, predominantly holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), beech and rowan have grown naturally. The site has no mature ash trees at all (2018), 1 pole-stage ash, and small regeneration.

Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) dominates the herb layer particularly below the planted trees whilst the paths and open ground are generally covered with bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and some rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Other species noted to be present include Rose-bay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), wild raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), sphagnum moss, rushes (*Juncus* spp.) common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). The wood provides habitats for a wide range of bird species and small mammals. Whilst small, the woodland is used by local people, especially children, for recreation and is of great importance for its conservation, habitat and landscape value within an urban setting.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Only pedestrian access is available to the woodland and this is via four concrete steps leading from Sedbergh Drive, Kendal. The first step up from the pavement on Sedbergh Drive is quite high. A welcome board is located at the entrance and two permissive paths, extending to approximately 75 metres in total, climb quite steeply from the steps to converge at the summit of the wood. No formal parking exists though it is possible to park with care on Sedbergh Drive. However this is a residential area and the entrance is on a bend so care must be taken.

For visitors wishing to reach the woods by public transport the wood is approximately 15 minutes walk from Kendal railway station on the A684 Ann St., Castle Street and then Sedbergh Road. Stay on Sedbergh Road when it splits with the A684 at Castle Green Road and take the second left on to Sedbergh Drive. The wood is some 500m or so on the right. There is a bus stop opposite number 27 Sedbergh Road and buses from Kendal bus and train station run regularly to here. The nearest public conveniences are at Abbot Hall, Kirkland, Kendal Town Hall, Highgate and K Village Lound Road - for more information contact South Lakeland District Council www.southlakeland.gov.uk or contact the Tourist Information Centre, Made in Cumbria, 48 Branthwaite Brow, Kendal LA9 4TX +44 (0)1539 735891 or use the website exploresouthlakeland.co.uk

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

The Trusts long term vision is to retain and perpetuate a mixed, sustainable woodland to ensure continuity of the landscape and habitat value of this small urban woodland. This will be achieved by maintaining a continuous cover of trees where safe to do so, with mature trees and old growth retained whilst considering the proximity to the surrounding houses and the exposed nature of the knoll dictates that safety is of paramount importance. Regular tree safety inspections are essential.

This small urban woodland provides a vital habitat for a variety of wildlife and the Woodland Trust aim to maintain this through managing for succession (predominantly natural regeneration) and uneven age structure over several rotations of the wood, retention of deadwood communities and protection from degradation and by adopting working practices that do not impact adversely on the integral environment, thereby protecting and promoting the ecology of the woodland.

The Trust will maintain the informal access to the woodland over some 75m of permissive paths, with the provision of one pedestrian entrance and welcome sign. Public access will be sustained with paths and steps being maintained and improved where necessary commensurate with usage (category B a medium level of use) to ensure that local users and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information through posters and local consultation will be provided to inform and involve visitors about the woodland and to enable them to gain a better understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment.

It is anticipated that this approach will ensure perpetuation of the woodland and maintain and enhance the level of public access.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

Only pedestrian access is available to the woodland via four concrete steps leading from Sedbergh Drive. A welcome board is located at the entrance. Two permissive paths, extending to approximately 75 metres in total, climb a 35% incline and converge at the summit of the knoll. From the top there are winter views west and north over Kendal to the hills of Lord's Lot and Potter Fell. To the south and east views are restricted to the immediate rolling grassland. No formal parking exists though it is possible to park with care on Sedbergh Drive.

Significance

Round Hill Wood generated much public interest from local residents particularly when it was necessary to remove and prune the mature trees for safety reasons. Public consultation generated much awareness of the importance of Round Hill Wood in the local community and local volunteers carried out the replanting of the site. The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan incorporates the action for landowners to give the public the opportunity to experience and appreciate wildlife. Round Hill Wood provides opportunities for informal recreation for local people and visitors; this is one of the Trusts key outcomes. It is an important local resource for residents of the housing estate in which the wood is located. Some of the trees have been planted as a memorial and legacy to local people.

Opportunities & Constraints

The footpath network at Round Hill Wood is limited and there are no external links to more extensive routes. Though very small the woodland is well used by residents of the housing estate and offers a reflective and tranquil place to view Kendal and the countryside beyond and a place for local children to play. The steep ground makes access to the site difficult in wet or icy conditions though this does not seem to deter local residents from using the woodland. Parking for visitors to the wood is restricted however it is unlikely that many people from outside the local community (and therefore walking distance) visit the woodland. Opportunities exist to inform the public of the Trust's objectives, the role of woodlands in the environment and management practices relating to Round Hill Wood through information posters, leaflets and consultation.

Factors Causing Change

Growth of trees with potential loss of views, tipping, boundary encroachments, illegal use of garden gates

Long term Objective (50 years+)

The Trust will maintain informal access to the woodland through the provision of paths and entrances with welcome signs relevant to its level of use (access category B, medium use). The steps, safety fencing and the retaining walls will be maintained and improved where necessary and tree safety inspections will be regularly undertaken to ensure that local users, neighbours and visitors can enjoy the freedom of the woodland for walking and peaceful recreation. Public information and promotion of the woodland locally will be enhanced where possible and posters will be used to inform and involve visitors to the woodland to promote greater understanding of the importance of woodland within the environment.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Maintain the 75m of permissive footpaths through mowing and strimming of vegetation to Woodland Trust Management Specifications annually. Maintain and repair stepped access with welcome sign, in particular 35m of retaining wall along the roadside, safety fencing and hedge along Sedbergh Drive. Regularly inspect boundaries (once during each plan period), including eastern dry stone wall and undertake repairs, working with neighbouring owners as appropriate. Litter pick site and remove material as necessary. Undertake regular annual inspection of mature trees to ensure safety of visitors and surrounding houses. Continue to involve local people by consultation and direct practical action where appropriate.

5.2 Secondary Woodland

Description

Round Hill Wood is small urban, secondary woodland situated on a round prominent rocky knoll in a housing estate on the eastern edge of Kendal. Houses and gardens surround the wood apart from the north west boundary running along Sedbergh Drive and a short boundary with pasture-land to the north east. The boundaries vary considerably including fences, hedges, a leylandii hedge and drystone wall, of particular note is the high, stepped retaining wall (which retains the wood) along Sedbergh Drive and the safety fence preventing access to the wall top from the woodland side.

The woodland canopy consists of mature oak (*Quercus petraea*), and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) planted around 1880, which for safety reasons were pollarded to two thirds of their former height and currently measure approximately 11 to 12 metres. The understorey consists of planted (P1980 & P1993) oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) the main tree species being concentrated away from the woodland edges. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*) were planted along the north, north west and western boundaries to create manageable zones with reduced safety implications. Favourable conditions also exist for natural regeneration and where light allows a number of tree species, predominantly holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and rowan have grown naturally. Goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) are also present along with an unusual purple fern leaved beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii'), a Spanish broom and a dwarf conifer. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) dominates the herb layer particularly below the planted crop whilst the paths and open ground are generally covered with common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and some rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Other species noted to be present include rose-bay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), wild raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), sphagnum moss, rushes (*Juncus* spp) common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*).

Significance

Round Hill Wood is an important local landscape feature. Woodlands in urban settings, such as Round Hill Wood, help to break up the visual impact of houses and bring the countryside to the local community. The woodland provides cover, food and nesting sites for a variety of bird species and small mammals, as the woodland grows, the diversity of the habitats will increase for both flora and fauna. The purple fern leaved beech is unusual and uncommon, and an interesting addition to the woodland. The spring display of bluebells is extensive. The National Character Area is the South Cumbria Low Fells.

Opportunities & Constraints

The opportunity exists to implement the Trusts long term vision to ensure retention and perpetuation of the woodland through management of a continuous canopy of trees and securing succession, through planting and natural regeneration. Retention of the mature canopy is constrained by the risk of safety due to the proximity of neighbouring housing and the exposed nature and the elevation of the trees. Coppicing of trees and shrubs, as appropriate, for safety reasons is an opportunity that will help diversify the age class structure of the woodland though due to the small area of the woodland and the safety concerns the retention of both standing and fallen deadwood is hampered.

Surrounded by urban properties it is possible that exotic species from gardens may colonise the woodland. Where colonisation poses a threat to the current overall mix of species removal or control may be considered. Where there is no threat the species can be accepted as part of the succession characteristics of the woodland. The purple fern leaved beech was planted and it will be retained as an interesting specimen tree. It poses no threat or safety issues to the habitat.

Factors Causing Change

Illegal use of garden gates causing erosion of vegetation. Vandalism damage to trees. Tipping particularly garden waste that may introduce non native invasives. Boundary encroachments. Removal of trees for safety reasons

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To develop a mixed, broadleaved, sustainable woodland with a range of tree and shrub species, by maintaining the mature canopy (where safe to do so), and managing planted species and natural regeneration. To secure habitat diversification through management of a variety of age classes, maintenance of the current diversity of species, retention of deadwood habitats and protection from tipping and invasive colonisation that may threaten the stability of the broadleaved woodland structure.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

Promote continuity of the existing mature trees where they do not present a danger to the public through annual tree safety inspections and where necessary pruning and crown thinning to retain the canopy species. Monitor for influx of invasive species and take appropriate action to reduce numbers if considered to be causing habitat change or loss of species. Regular removal of litter and garden waste. Continue to minimise future tree safety liabilities by thinning the pole-stage trees in areas where they are becoming dense and halo thinning around trees of good form to grow on to maturity. Coppicing of trees and shrubs adjacent to boundaries to reduce safety problems will be considered. The site has no mature ash trees at all (2018), 1 pole-stage ash, and small regeneration.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.38	Oak (sessile)	1993	High forest	No/poor vehicular access to the site, Very steep slope/cliff/quarry/mine shafts/sink holes etc	Informal Public Access, Secondary Woodland	

The woodland canopy consists of mature oak (*Quercus petraea*), and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) planted about 1880, which for safety reasons were pollarded to two thirds of their former height. The understorey consists of planted (P1980 & P1993) oak (*Quercus petraea*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), bird cherry (*Prunus padus*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) the main tree species being concentrated away from the woodland edges. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and dog rose (*Rosa canina*) were planted along the north, north west and western boundaries to create manageable zones with reduced safety implications. Favourable conditions also exist for natural regeneration and where light allows a number of tree species, are present as seedlings and saplings including holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), beech, sycamore, ash and rowan with a rare oak seedling. Goat willow (*Salix caprea*) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) are also present along with an unusual purple fern leaved beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii'), a Spanish broom and a dwarf conifer. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) dominates the herb layer particularly below the planted crop whilst the paths are generally covered with bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and some rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*). Other species noted to be present include rose-bay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), wild raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), sphagnum moss, rushes (*Juncus* spp.) common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*). Two paths lead from the stepped access on Sedbergh Drive, up the steep incline to the summit of the knoll. Houses and gardens surround the woodland apart from the north west boundary running along Sedbergh Drive and a short boundary with pasture land to the north east. The boundaries vary considerably including fences, hedges, a leylandii hedge and the eastern boundary is drystone wall. Of particular note is the high, stepped retaining wall (retaining the wood) along Sedbergh Drive and the safety fence preventing access to the wall from the woodland side.

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.